

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Public and private agencies unite to provide \$3 million to prepare Bay Area workers for jobs with high demand

SACRAMENTO – A collaborative private-public workforce development initiative will provide \$3 million to help nine San Francisco Bay Area programs prepare workers for jobs with a future that meet the needs of employers in today's high-demand sectors of the local economy.

"The Bay Area Workforce Funding Collaborative (BAWFC) and the state Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) are combining federal Workforce Investment Act funds with grants from philanthropic organizations to fund imaginative and effective workforce development programs," said LWDA Secretary Victoria Bradshaw. "The agencies receiving these grants will prepare hundreds of Californians for jobs in the biotechnology and health care industries – where the demand for workers is high and the future is bright."

Five Workforce Partnership Grants combine \$1.2 million in WIA funds and \$1.44 million in philanthropic funds. Two other sets of grants, solely from philanthropic sources, award \$361,000 in Innovation grants and Policy and Systems Change grants.

The philanthropic grants are being contributed by 11 visionary foundations: The San Francisco Foundation; the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Walter and Elise Haas Fund; Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; The California Endowment; Annie E. Casey Foundation; Levi Strauss Foundation; Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund; Y & H Soda Foundation; Kaiser Permanente Northern California; and Catholic Healthcare West.

The WIA funds are drawn from the Governor's 15 Percent portion of the federal Workforce Investment Act funds. The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department exercises oversight authority for the funds. Below are details of the other grants awarded and their recipients.

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WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Jewish Vocational Services in San Francisco will receive \$600,000 – \$275,000 in WIA funding and \$325,000 in philanthropic funding – to provide career counseling and support services to 150 foreign-trained nurses participating in refresher courses in registered nursing and licensed vocational nursing. The agency will provide the same services to 70 low-income students in a two-year registered nursing educational program.

The Unity Council in Oakland will receive \$540,000 – \$225,000 in WIA funding and \$315,000 in philanthropic funding – to train and place high-risk youths in medical and dental assistant jobs. Participants will receive a wide range of services, including classroom and on-the-job training, designed not only to place them in jobs, but to help them remain employed. The program will enroll 66 youths. The Unity Council will partner with the Youth Employment Partnership, Youth Uprising, Peralta Community Colleges and health care employers.

San Mateo County will receive \$600,000 – \$340,000 in WIA funding and \$260,000 in philanthropic funding – to help 40 individuals move into careers in biotechnology manufacturing. The program will reach out to people laid-off from their jobs. It will create classes to improve literacy and job skills, as well as a program in instrumentation and calibration for biotechnology technician jobs. Some participants will go directly into manufacturing jobs while others will go on to postsecondary education.

City College of San Francisco will receive \$400,000 – \$225,000 in WIA funding and \$175,000 in philanthropic funding – to prepare disadvantaged students for entry-level biotech jobs and college-level biotech certificate training. The program will focus on youths and adults with 6th to 9th grade skill levels. CCSF will work in partnership with the Information Technology Consortium on the program, which will reach 99 students.

Laney College in Oakland will receive up to \$310,000 – \$135,000 in WIA funding and up to \$175,000 in philanthropic funding – to design and introduce a one-semester intensive certificate program to prepare students for work as biotech manufacturing technicians. The college will also create a one-semester remedial program to prepare students for the certificate program. The programs will enroll 120 students.

INNOVATION GRANTS

Consumer Directed Services will receive \$130,000 in philanthropic funding to provide pooled human resources services for small employers who serve people with developmental disabilities.

Jewish Vocational Services will receive \$80,000 in philanthropic funding to start a career ladder program that will provide training and career advising services helping employees of health care agencies move up in their careers.

POLICY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE GRANTS

The Workforce Alliance for California's Edge will receive \$100,000 in philanthropic funding to build a coalition focusing on making workforce development strategies the centerpiece of California's economic development efforts.

The National Economic Development and Law Center will receive \$51,000 in philanthropic funds to expand the use of the Food Stamp Employment and Training funding.

For more information, contact Sara Rounsaville, director of public affairs and communication of the San Francisco Foundation, at 415-531-5588.

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